

Niiwin Makwag Niimiiwag: A Decade Journey of Courage and Leadership for Housing First in Winnipeg

**Lucille Bruce and Betty Edel
(End Homelessness Winnipeg)**

Jino Distasio (University of Winnipeg)



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WINNIPEG



Session Objectives

- *Examine Winnipeg's pathway over the past two decades in responding to the homelessness crisis*
- *Discuss the rise of Housing First through Niiwin Makwag Niimiiwag*
- *Explore the process of localizing Indigenous Housing First in Winnipeg*
- *Highlight the Future of Homelessness Governance in Winnipeg and the role of End Homelessness Winnipeg*

Outcome

To position ending homelessness within an Indigenous lens focused on local capacity, solutions, and ideas that benefit the community while contributing to positive outcomes that are strengths based.



Mount Royal Hotel





Hidden Homelessness

For Winnipeg: A Twenty Year Transformation

- 1999- Launch of Local Plans/Cabs
- 2009- The Rise of Housing First
- 2019- The New Model (Twenty years Later)

Annual Costs of Homelessness and Mental Health

- 35,000 Experience Homelessness
 - \$7 Billion cost to the economy
 - \$50+ billion for Mental Health
 - \$53,000 per person
 - What about the human Cost?

Twenty Years of Homelessness

- $20,000^* \times 365 \text{ Days} \times 20 \text{ Years} =$
- 146,000,000 Nights Canadians Spent Homeless!
- Tens of Billions Expended into Various Systems
- What Have We done as a Country?

Pathways to Resistance and Collective Action in Winnipeg

- Winnipeg's History addressing Homelessness
- The Rise of Niiwin Makwag Niimiiwag
- Indigenous Organizations Lead New Era

Winnipeg's Urban Structure

- Winnipeg has 800,000+ in its metro area
 - Moderate Population and Economic Growth
 - Second oldest housing stock in Canada
 - Inner city of Winnipeg Unique
 - Historically High rate of poverty and urban decline
 - 10,000+ are part of the Hidden Homeless

A Tale of Two Cities



Travel inc.
Tel: 956-0222

CHN COLLEGE
HCA Training

Aldo

310

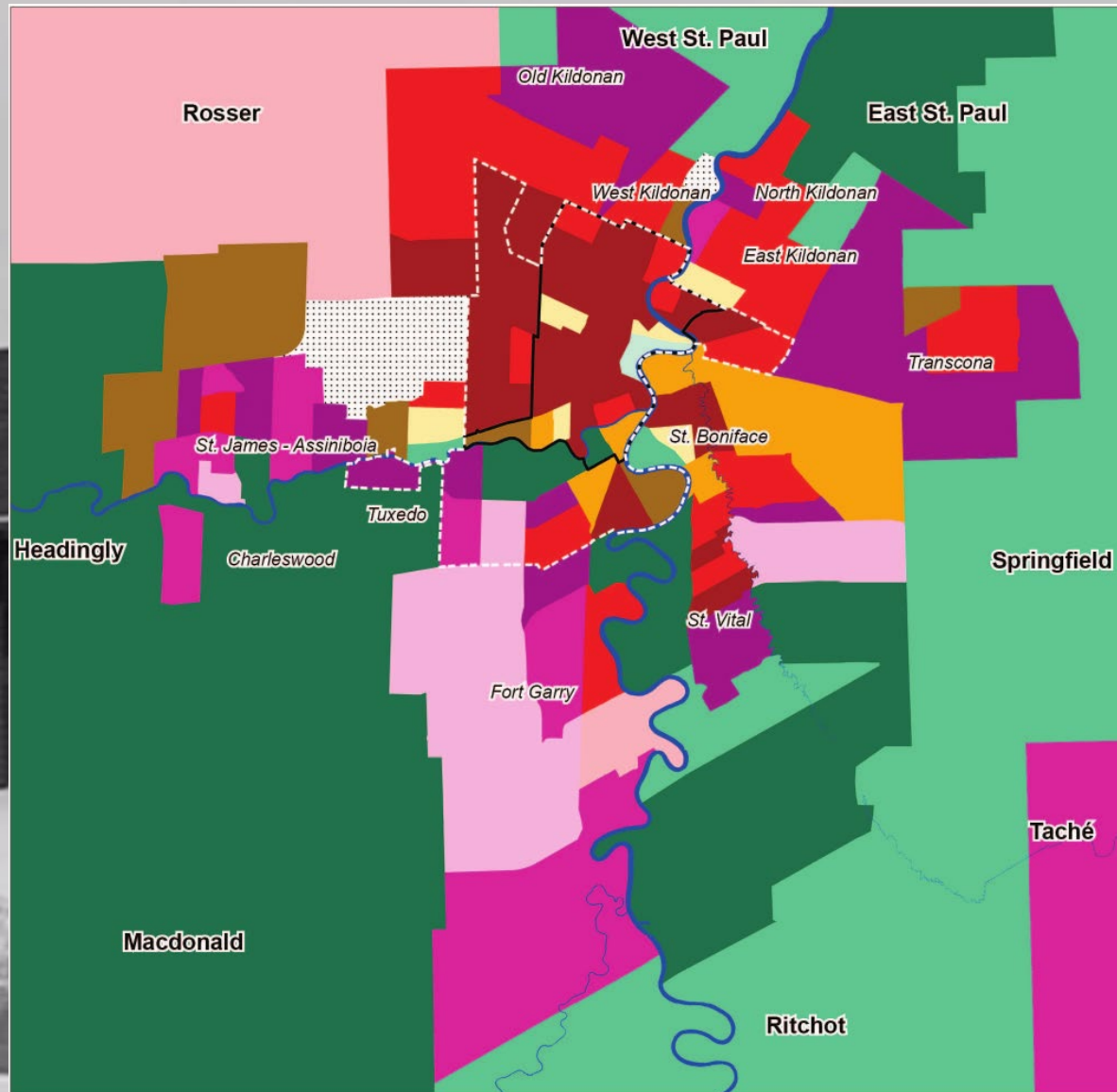
Fine Ride Auto Sales
Where Quality Comes First

DODGE

DAKOTA

AMERICAN
GME 980
Fine Ride

Middle-income neighbourhoods are disappearing



Wealth continues to move to the city's edges.

sell & trade
ANYTHING of VAL
PH. 942-897

WE BUY/USE
WORK BOOTS
USED ONLY

572

IF YOU NEED
HELP
CALL 942-6559

BUY
USED Work
BOOTS
ONLY

HELP
WANTED

WORKERS WANTED
DAILY
APPLY 6:15 AM

572

QUICK CASH PA



Rise of Poverty "Skid Row"

Canadian Homelessness Crisis Brews

- 1970s/80s changing times
- 1993 Federal Shift in Housing
- Federal Disinvestment
- 1999 Crisis Year



NATIONAL HOMELESSNESS INITIATIVE

In partnership
to help Canada's
homeless people



**A Guide to the Supporting
Communities Partnerships
Initiative (SCPI)**

Federal Timeline

- 1999 –Federal SCIPI program
- 2000-2008 - HPS funds various interventions aimed at jobs, skills and “heads on beds” ...
- AHCS 2009
- National Housing Strategy/Reaching Home



The Winnipeg Model

- NIP/RRAP – 1970's (top down)
- CAI – 1980-1990's (bricks vs. people)
- WDA/WPA (picked up the pieces)
- SCIPI – WHHI (homelessness)***
- The Rise of CBOs (local leadership)
- NA! (reacting to crime; addressing community)
- MHCC Project (national/local)
- Establishment of End Homelessness Winnipeg
- Present Model!

At Home: The Experiment 2009/\$110 Million



At Home | Chez Soi



VANCOUVER

WINNIPEG

TORONTO

MONTREAL

MONCTON

Winnipeg's Model Revisited

- Randomized Control Trial
- Based on a psychiatric centred model
- “Dropped in” from the Federal Government
- Achieving fidelity with Housing First
- Balancing with Indigenous Approaches
- Early Resistance... but with a collective outcome of action

Localizing Housing First

Building on the Capacity and
Strength from the Community

Betty Edel



At Home Chez Soi 2009-2013

The Beginning

- When At Home Chez Soi was first introduced, Indigenous leadership and service providers were left out of how the project would be implemented in Winnipeg
- What happened? The Indigenous community mobilized: “Not Without Us”

Indigenous overrepresentation among those who experience homelessness in Winnipeg:

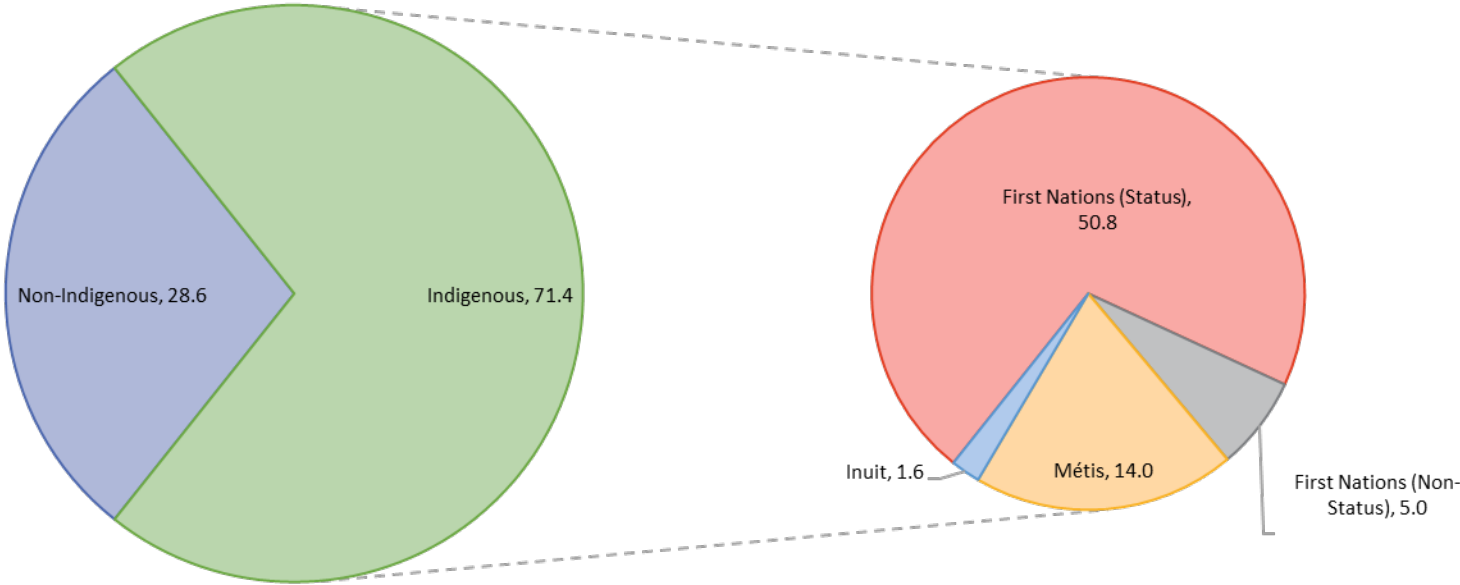


Image: Percentage of Indigenous vs. Non-Indigenous participants in the 2018 Winnipeg Street Health Survey

Winnipeg's At Home Model

- *Local Indigenous capacity and expertise to deliver supports and housing through a local strengths-based approach*



Implementation of Housing First in Winnipeg

2 site coordinators:

- 1 Indigenous person with many years experience working in the community from an Indigenous cultural approach
- 1 from the government with knowledge and skills of government systems



Initial Involvement

- Indigenous Council established to guide the implementation process: Elders, Knowledge Keepers, Indigenous leaders
- University of Winnipeg
- University of Manitoba
- Federal and provincial government

The Winnipeg model was based on creating and maintaining culturally safe partnerships among local Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal organizations, universities, and government departments.

Figure 1. Winnipeg Aboriginal Care Partners



Service Teams

'Wi Che Win'*
(From the Cree:
"To walk along side")
Low to Moderate Needs

Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata
Culturally based programming
Strength/ Growth
Complex Trauma Focused

'Ni Apin' *
(From the Cree:
'I am sitting at Home')
Low to Moderate Needs

**Aboriginal Health and
Wellness Centre**
Supported housing and
Day Programs

ACT
(Cree: Wiisocotatiwin
"To assist in finding
hidden gifts")
High Needs
Mount Carmel Centre
Shared care intervention
Team Intervention
Choice

Winnipeg Site: Recognizing and Celebrating Indigenous Diversity

► Elders

► Sharing Circles

► Lived Experience

Lived Experience Engagement



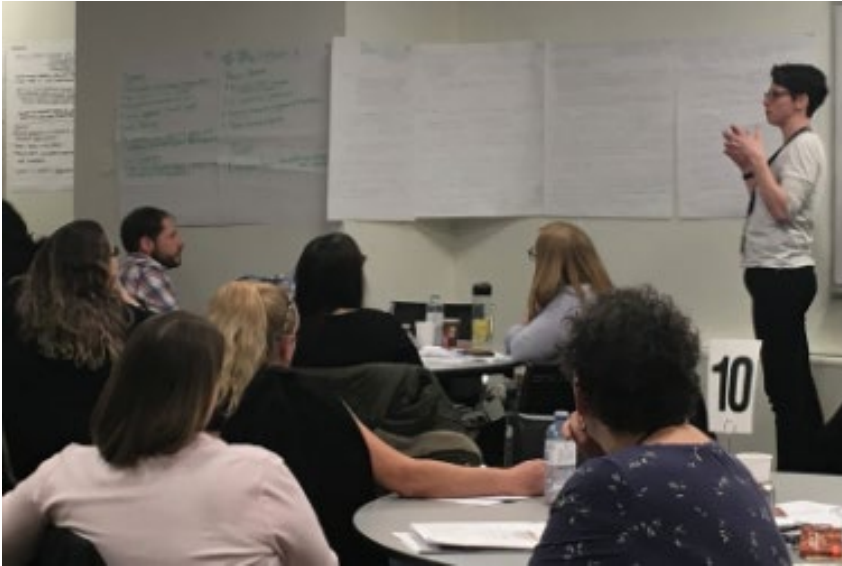
Winnipeg's Community Strengths Framework



Four key principles:

- providing trauma-informed care;
- recognizing culture diversity;
- being strengths based; and
- ensuring cooperation and collaboration.

Bringing Everyone Together





THE UNIVERSITY OF
WINNIPEG

Institute of
Urban Studies



INSTITUTE OF
URBAN STUDIES

LOCALIZED APPROACHES TO ENDING HOMELESSNESS

Indigenizing Housing First





END HOMELESSNESS
WINNIPEG

THE PLAN TO
**END HOMELESSNESS
IN WINNIPEG**

April 2014

Lucille Bruce,
End
Homelessness
Winnipeg

END HOMELESSNESS

A Community Task Force

Background

- 2012: Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Council and United Way Winnipeg established a 14 member, cross-sectoral Task Force
- 2012-2014: Extensive community engagement with over 150 people, including 90 people with lived experience
- 2014: Winnipeg's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness released:

Prevention



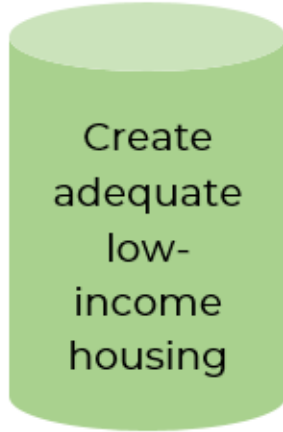
Keep people from becoming homeless

Person-centred Supports



Offer services that meet individuals' needs

Housing Supply



Create adequate low-income housing

Measurement



Research best practices & evaluate progress

Purpose and Principles

- Backbone organization leading implementation of the 10-Year Plan
- Shifting focus from Managing homelessness through emergency responses to finding long term solutions
- Principles and Values:
 - Truth and Reconciliation
 - United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People
 - The voice of those with lived experienced
 - Housing as a human right

Key Recent Accomplishments

- Becoming an Indigenous Organization
- Participation reflecting those who experience homelessness
- Integration of culturally relevant approaches and lens

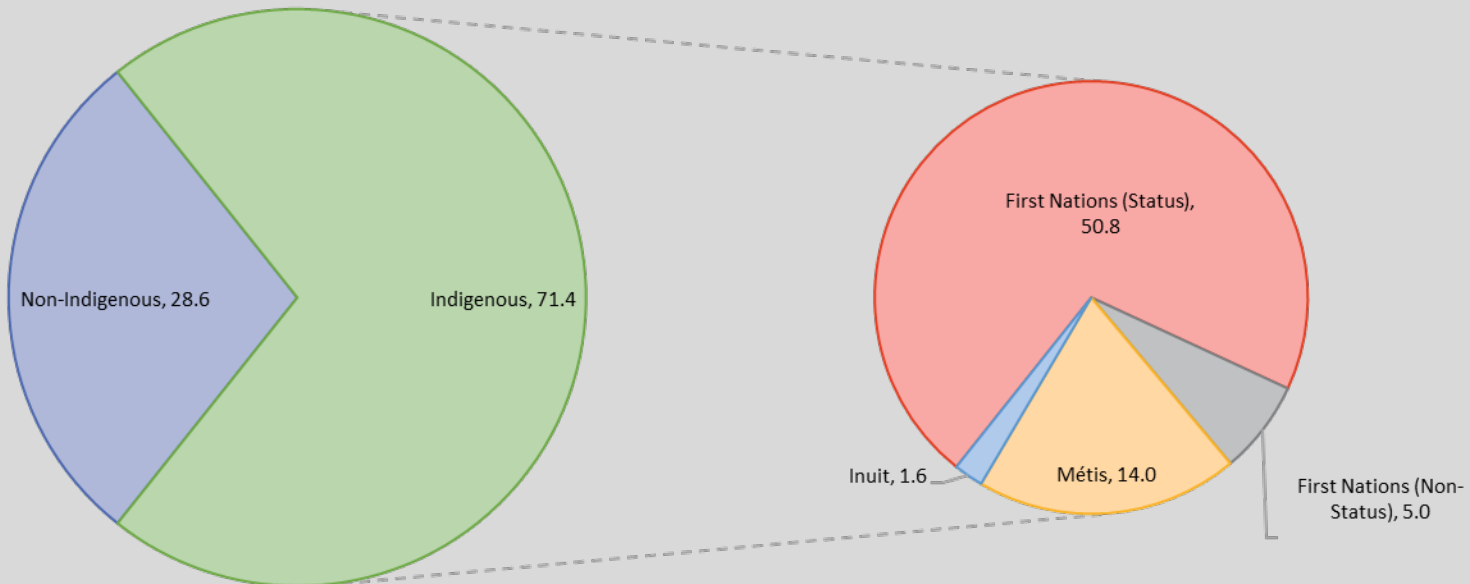


Image: Percentage of Indigenous vs. Non-Indigenous participants in the 2018 Winnipeg Street Health Survey

Key Recent Accomplishments

- Interim Community Entity For Reaching Home as of April 1, 2019
- Transitioning oversight of two local HIFIS systems: Housing First/Doorways and HIPW/Shelters
- Establishing Community Sector Leadership Council



Future Plans:

End Homelessness Winnipeg will collaborate with homeless-serving sectors and all levels of government to advance and measure progress toward the following 7 Targets by 2025:

CREATE



1,340 additional housing units based on identified local housing needs

ELIMINATE



Entries to homelessness among released inmates and youth who are in CFS care or disengaging from school

HOUSE



1,519 people experiencing absolute homelessness or provisionally housed

EXPAND



Use of HIFIS to **45** homeless-serving organizations and programs as part of a coordinated access system

REDUCE



Indigenous overrepresentation in emergency shelters by **50%**

PREVENT

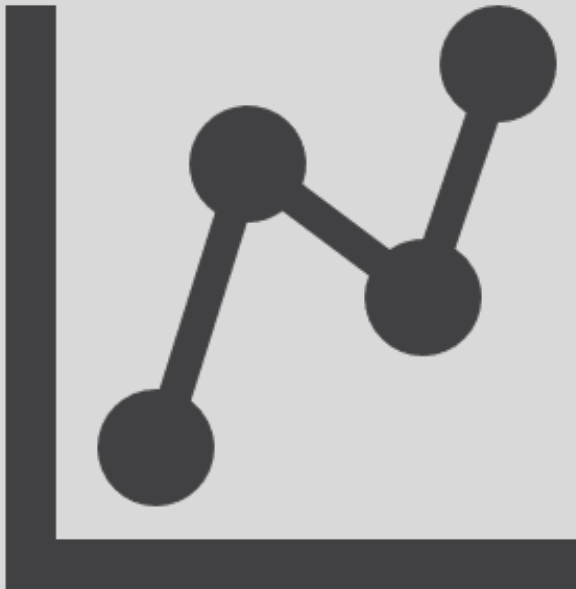


90% of those served by coordinated access from re-entering homelessness

SHORTEN



lengths of stays in emergency shelters so that **92%** are less than 10 days



Future Plans

- Integrating and expanding HIFIS
- Planning the Coordinated Access System



Find out More:



www.EndHomelessnessWinnipeg.ca



End Homelessness Winnipeg



@EHW_WPG



Thank You!